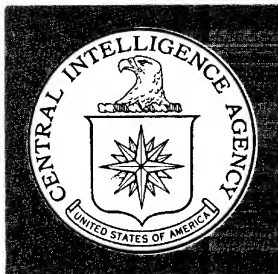


~~SENSITIVE~~
CIA/SAVA /WVIND 700418



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 18 April 1970

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

For the President Only

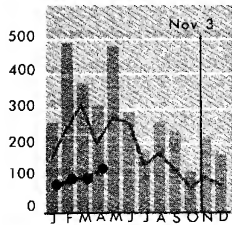
~~Top Secret~~

SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

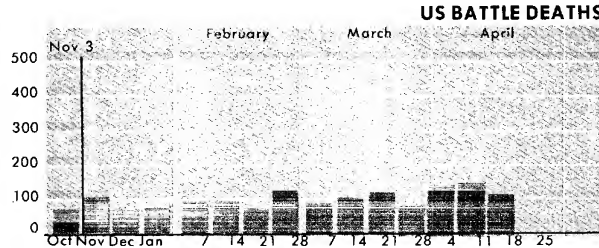
1968-1970

Weekly average
for each month

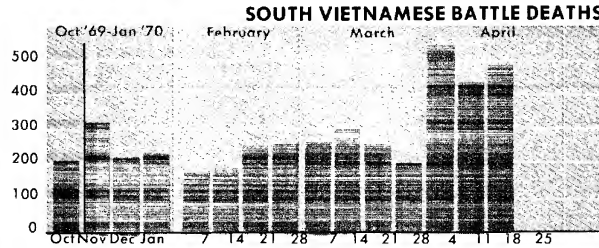
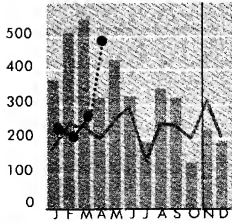
■ 1968 — 1969 ● 1970



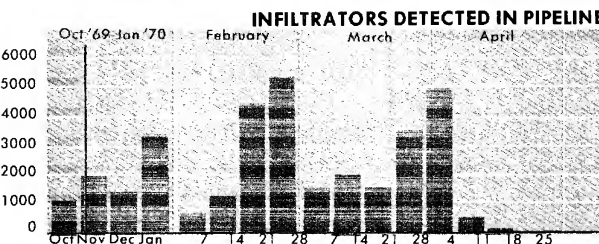
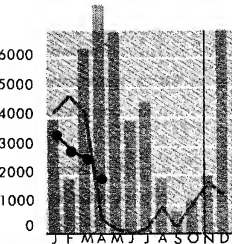
OCTOBER 1969-APRIL 1970

Weekly data as reported, Feb-Mar-Apr
Weekly average per month, Oct-Jan

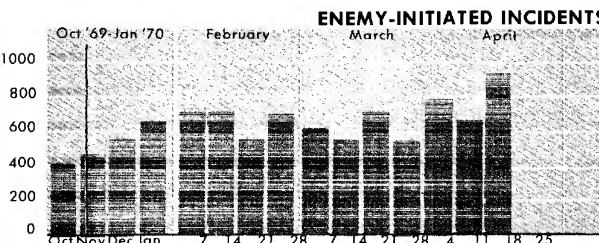
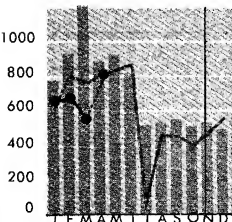
US BATTLE DEATHS

declined moderately to 107
from last week's 141.

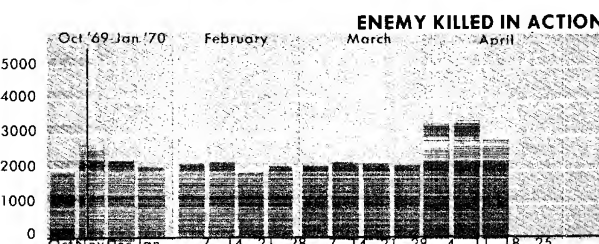
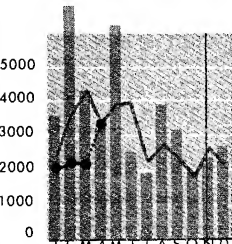
SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS

increased somewhat to 490
from last week's 446. The of-
ficial total will change as late
reports are received and will
be lower than figures released
to the press by the GVN.

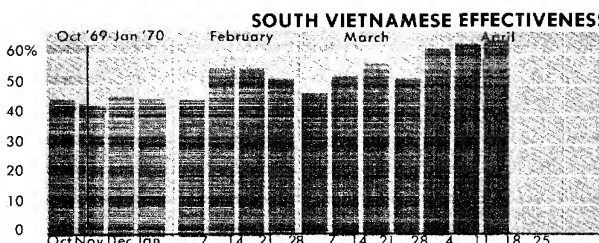
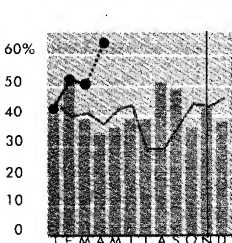
INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE

stand at three small "QL"
groups with a total strength
of 177. The total number of
infiltrators detected since 23
October remains at some
59,000 - 60,500.

ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS

rose to 942, the highest num-
ber since 31 January 1970,
from last week's 676. The
increase reflected harassing
action as significant enemy
activity decreased, i.e., fewer
ground assaults and attacks
by fire.

ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION

dropped to 2,962 from last
week's 3,458.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS

as measured by the percent-
age of enemy killed by RVN
forces remained consistent at
67% opposed to last week's
66%.Dotted line shows current
average for April 1970

Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

The Communists continue to prepare for the second phase of their current round of heightened activity although considerable evidence suggests slippage in the original timetable for this recycled "offensive." Enemy-initiated activity country wide declined significantly by mid-week except for the tri-border area in the western highlands of II Corps. A number of reports indicate that a primary objective of the highland campaign is to provide secure base areas for enemy units which may be forced out of Cambodian sanctuaries contiguous to the III and IV Corps borders of South Vietnam. Combined ARVN-Cambodian operations against these enemy base areas have added to the Communist's logistical and tactical problems, but apparently have not, as yet, forced the abandonment of these long-established sanctuaries. The operations may, however, lead to a reduction in enemy offensive activity in both Corps areas as the enemy is forced to fight on two fronts.

Enemy Infiltration

During the past week, only three small "QL," or specialist, groups with a total strength of 177 were detected entering the pipeline as enemy infiltration appears to be slowing down. No battalion size, four-digit groups have now been detected entering the system since 8 April suggesting that the pattern of last year, a sharp reduction of inputs, may be being repeated. The total number of infiltrators observed since 23 October 1969 remains at some 59,000 to 60,500.

South Vietnam Developments

The government has made several conciliatory gestures in an effort to damp down the growing problem of student unrest. Three student demands relating to Saigon University matters have been met and, on 20 April, the military court agreed to release temporarily some of the students accused of pro-Communist activities and defer their trial, pending a Supreme Court consideration of the military court's constitutionality. Encouraged by anti-Thieu politicians, Buddhists, labor leaders and press, the students have broadened the scope of their demands, including the issue of treatment of Vietnamese residents by the Cambodian government. Despite President Thieu's reported plans to take a conciliatory approach, student agitation is likely to continue to simmer over the next few weeks, and could reach serious proportions if the anti-Thieu dissidents succeed in interjecting more volatile issues into the situation.

The Revised Hamlet Evaluation System (RHES) statistics show that 88.5 percent of the people were living in hamlets rated A, B, or C at the end of February. This represents some 15.6 million of a total population of 17.6 million. The VC-controlled population totaled 382,500, or 2.2 percent. The Tet celebrations had an apparent slowing effect upon pacification progress, with country wide statistics showing only a 0.6 percent gain in GVN-controlled areas during February. Twelve provinces lost ground during the month, at least partly as a result of increased enemy military pressure. Of 2,151 villages, 1,981 had elected governments working in place, with an additional 57 having elected governments in exile. Of 10,522 hamlets, 9,689 had elected governments working in place, with 178 additional elected governments in exile.

Communist Developments

North Vietnamese Party First Secretary Le Duan arrived in Moscow on 18 April following three days of unpublicized and probably sensitive talks in Peking. Le Duan joins Le Duc Tho, chief Paris negotiator, who arrived in Moscow about a week earlier. While the two leaders are ostensibly in Moscow for the Lenin centennial on 22 April, the new situation in Southeast Asia and the French proposal for a Geneva-type conference are probably high on the agenda. There have been tenuous indications that Hanoi might be interested in a broader conference and Soviet comments last week, although subsequently withdrawn, also appeared to back the French proposal. In a comment on the 20th, however, the Viet Cong delegate in Paris appeared to strike a negative note, perhaps in anticipation of some of the conditions which the Communists intend to impose as a price for participation.

~~Top Secret~~